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ITEMS ON INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, MINE SAFETY IN CHINA

MACHINE DAMAGE AND ACCIDENT RATE INCREASE -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pac, 20 Dec 53

(Reprinted from Peiping Jen-min Jih-pao editorial entitled "Continue the Struggle to Achieve Still Greater Results in the Increase Production, Practice Economy Drive") -- Although 1953 plans for the drive have been achieved, certain problems and deficiencies still have to be corrected. The biggest problems in industrial production are the high accident rate and the low volume and quality of goods produced.

Incomplete statistics show that injuries and deaths from accidents increased during October and November 1953 compared with September, and also that very serious damage to machinery occurred. In the Fu-shun Steel Plant, spillage of steel and burning out of electric transformers continued. In light industry the number of accidents considerably increased in October in the Li-hua Paper Mill. In the No 9 Rubber Factory, workers operating No 4 machine disregarded operating rules and allowed the machine to use too much power, resulting in damage to the machine and to machinery in other units. In the electrical sections, frequent power failures seriously interrupted production in other sections.

ACCIDENTS, SAFETY MEASURES IN PEN-CH'I IRON AND STEEL PLANT -- Peiping, Kung-jen Jih-pao, 6 Feb 54

The P'an-ling iron mine of the Pen-ch'i Iron and Steel Plant, although operating under the most unfavorable conditions, successfully carried out a safety program with excellent results. During the 34-month period from January 1951 to the end of October 1953, there were no deaths or serious accidents in the mine. Production output rose, and production plans were exceeded annually. Production in 1951 was 116 percent of the quota; in 1952 production was 110 percent of the quota. Also, construction projects on shafts and elevator shafts were also completed.

Conditions were once very bad in this mine, cave-ins and landslides were a constant threat. During 1949 and 1950 there were nine serious accidents. In 1951, 31 percent of all the workers in this mine suffered injuries from cave-ins and landslides. Not only were these accidents severe, but there was great danger of more accidents from cave-ins. In 1952 the mine organized a workers' group to study the advanced techniques of the Kung-chang-ling iron mine. As a result, the organization of the workers was changed and a new method of excavation which subsequently solved this problem [of accidents] was initiated. During the past 2 years, cave-ins and landslides have been eliminated.

The mine leaders formulated a safety program, and adopted a system of safety measures which changed the situation. The mine leadership strengthened its technological safety operations group and appointed experienced workers to serve as safety workers. They also organized a technical safety division directly under the supervision of the mine superintendent. The activities of the safety staff are strongly supported by the leadership of the mine; thus the attitude of those employees who thought safety workers ineffectual and troublesome was changed. Education in safety was constantly emphasized and gradually the workers themselves participated and offered suggestions for safety work. This safety-measures propaganda training reduced accidents and increased the production of mining ore from 35 tons a shift to 95 tons a shift.

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Other safety problems were also reviewed. For instance, in unloading the ore car, men were often injured by others' shovels because there were too many men in a narrow space. After one worker's hand was nearly cut off, a meeting was held and new safety measures were adopted. Now, when men are unloading cars they do not change position; if they are unloading ore to the left, they are told to keep the right foot stationary and vice versa. This safety measure reduced the danger from shovels.

To maintain the results of safety work, weekly conferences were held for a review of accidents, mutual study, criticism, self-criticism, and exchange of experiences. Every 10 days, a report is issued reviewing the data submitted by the safety cells.

Each day before the workers go on duty, the mine holds a 15-minute meeting, in which everyone discusses the various safety measures. The first measure is to call out signals to synchronize movements when two or more workers are doing a job together. The second measure is to get the approval of the safety staff before doing any work. Other measures include the following: a new worker is assigned to a three-man team with two old workers until the new worker learns safety techniques; and, when crossing the mine tracks, the men must be counted, the unit foreman must lead the group, and a safety-team member must be at the end to make sure no one is left behind.

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